



For photo/illustration credits and more information about the history of Hingham's Inner Harbor, please visit: hingham-ma.gov/HinghamHarbor

The Town Mill

The tide was harnessed for commerce in 1643 when a combined corn (grist) mill and sawmill was erected near what is now Summer Street. The mill building is shown in this circa 1905 photo, with the mill pond in the foreground.



The mill was in operation into the early decades of the 20th century.

Looking Back on Downtown Hingham



Settlers from England began to arrive in 1633 at what was then known as Bare Cove. The Town of Hingham was incorporated in 1635. In that year there was a drawing for house lots, “westerly from the Cove along Town Street, now North Street, and into Broad Cove Lane, now Lincoln Street.”*

For centuries, a defining feature of the downtown area was the tidal Mill Pond, originally a large cove opening into the harbor. Summer Street was built along the harbor in 1831, and a portion of Water Street the next year. A series of bridges enabled passage across Mill Pond. After years of discussion, a special town meeting in 1948 approved filling in the pond. The work was completed in 1953. However, those who lived in the area in the early 20th century still refer to the neighborhood as “The Cove.”

*Hingham Old and New © 1934 Town of Hingham



This early 20th century photo (at right) shows the Mill Pond crossed by bridges, one a railroad trestle used by the South Shore Railroad of the Old Colony line starting in 1849. At left is a view of the mill from the harbor in 1920.

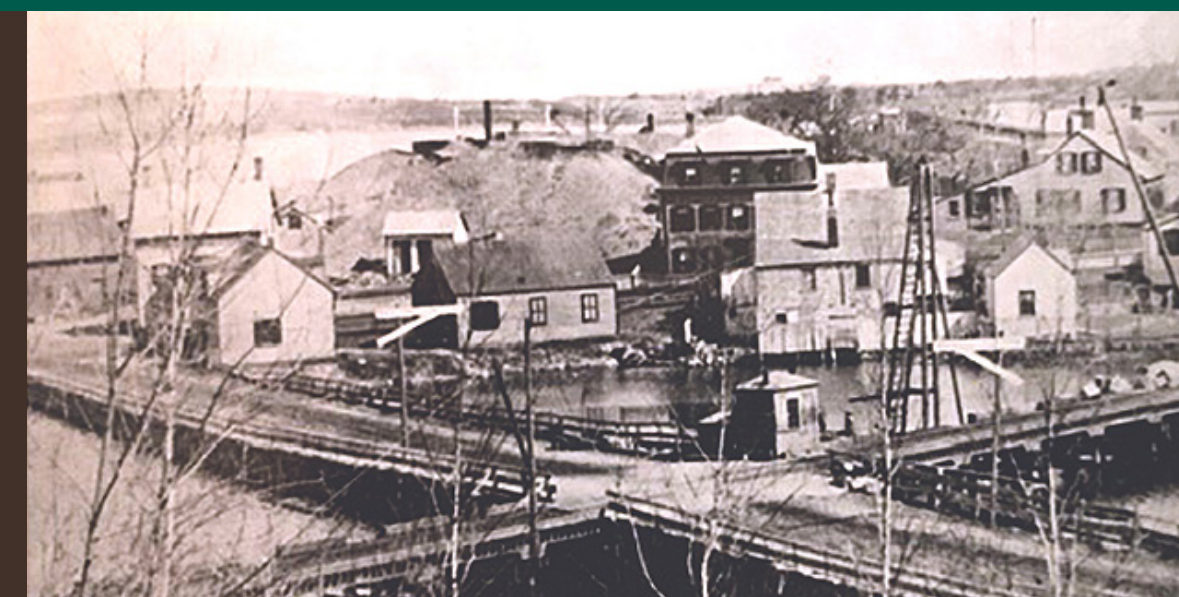
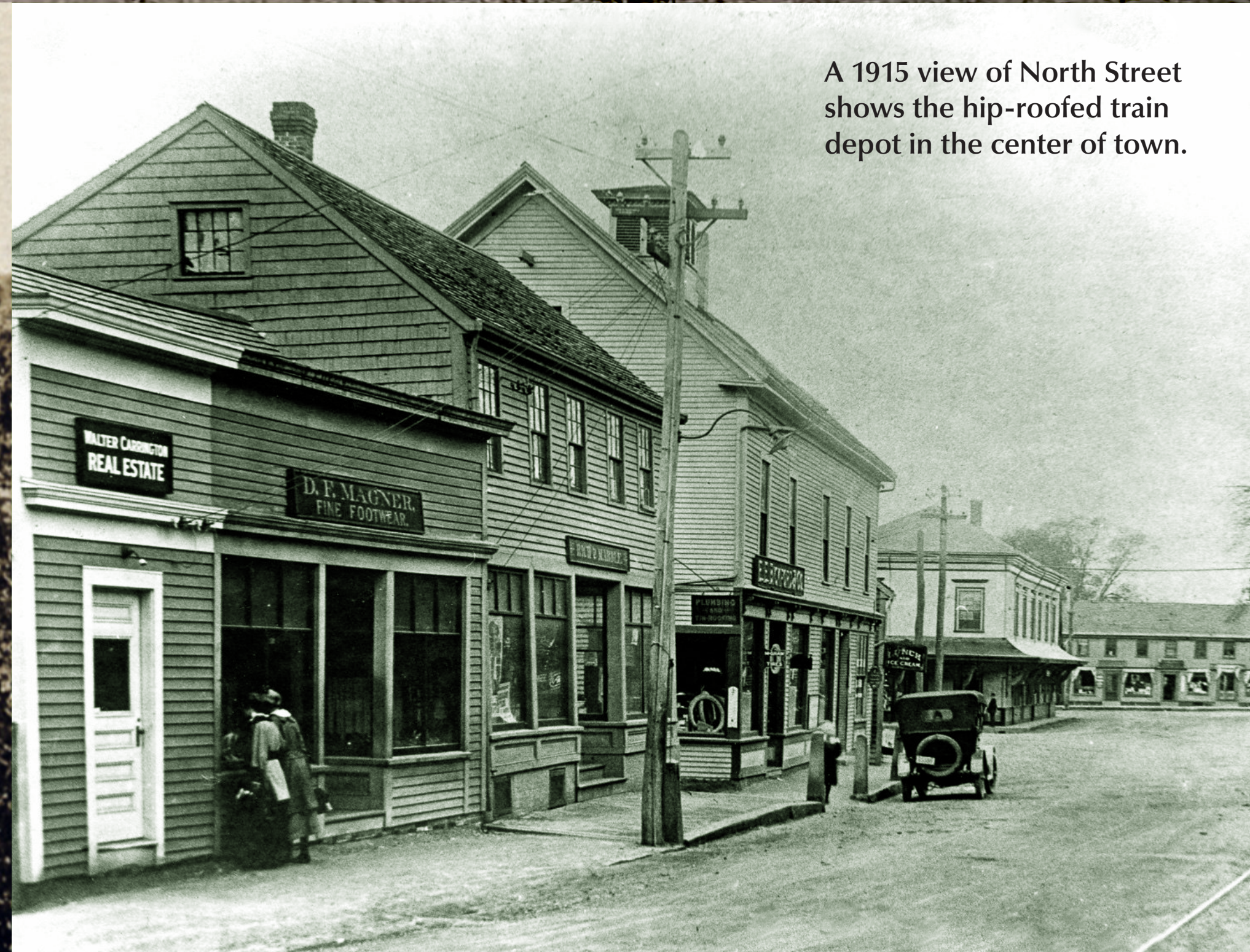
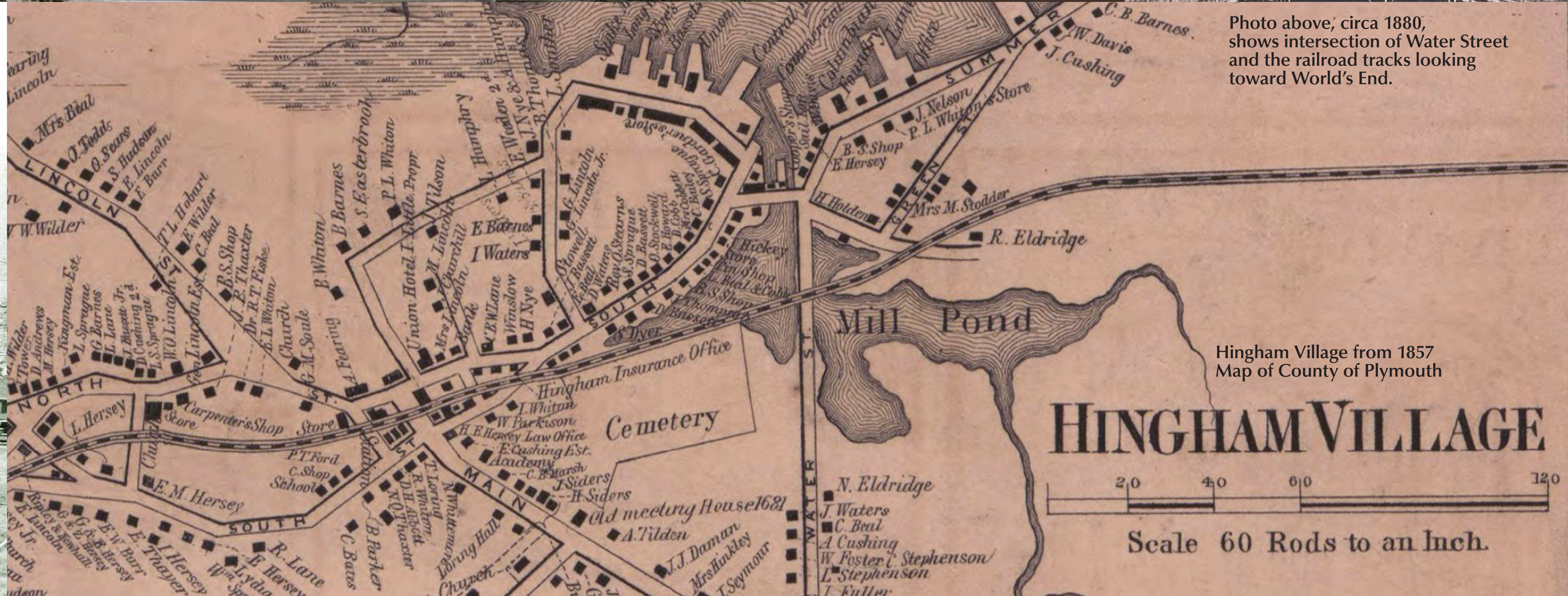


Photo above, circa 1880, shows intersection of Water Street and the railroad tracks looking toward World's End.



A 1915 view of North Street shows the hip-roofed train depot in the center of town.



Hingham Village from 1857
Map of County of Plymouth

Scale 60 Rods to an Inch.